

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 19, 2004. Claims 1-21 are pending.

Applicant would first like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the telephonic interview held on July 28, 2004. The substance of the interview is set forth below.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Morishita in view of Ginter. This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 as amended requires "a system managing section that, in response to a releasing key operation that renders the additional operation implementable, makes said second program accessible in said first program, and wherein said first program is accessible and operable both before and after the releasing key operation, wherein the *second program is a subroutine of the first program*." The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this advantageous feature required by claim 1.

In particular, both Morishita and Ginter fail to disclose or suggest a second program which is a *subroutine* of a first program, where the second subroutine program is selectively activatable via a releasing key operation, and the first program is accessible and operable both before and after the releasing key operation as required by claim 1. In other words, claim 1 requires that the second program is a subroutine of the first program, and that the second program is selectively activatable via the releasing key operation. On the other hand, the first program (which the selectively activatable second program is a subroutine of) is accessible and operable before and after such a releasing key operation. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest these aspects of claim 1, either taken alone or in combination.

The cited art fails to disclose or suggest using a release key operation to allow accessibility to a subroutine program (e.g., second program) that is provided in a main program (e.g., first program) that is accessible regardless of the release key operation. Both Morishita and Ginter fail to disclose or suggest this aspect of amended claim 1. Thus, even if the references were combined as alleged in the Office Action (which applicant believes would be incorrect in any event), the invention of amended claim 1 still would not be met. To make this clear, claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to expressly state that the second program is a subroutine of the first program.

Claim 5 requires that "the second program is a subroutine of the first program . . . the first program being accessible prior to the releasing key operation" . . . and further requires that "said releasing key operation determines whether the release key information matches release key information stored in memory and if so then making the second program accessible." These aspects of claim 5 are not disclosed or suggested by the cited art either alone or in the alleged combination. Thus, even if the art was combined as alleged in the Office Action (which applicant believes would be incorrect in any event), the invention of claim 5 still would not be met.

Claims 9 and 15, like claim 1, require that the first program is accessible and operable both before and after the releasing key operation, and that the second program is a subroutine of the first program. As explained above, the cited art fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of claims 9 and 15.

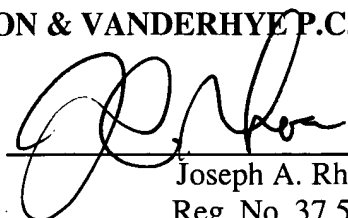
For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

NAKAI et al.
Appl. No. 09/833,038
August 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Rhoa', is written over a horizontal line.

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